

REMARKS

The present application amends claims 1, 3, 6-8 and 15-17, leaves claims 2, 4, 5, 9-11 and 18 and 20 unchanged and cancels claim 14.

Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1-11, 15-18 and 20.

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action the Examiner objected to claims 1-10 as containing various informalities. Various amendments were made throughout claims 1-10 to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner. Therefore, this objection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claims 3, 6-11 and 15-18 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regards as the invention. Various amendments were made throughout claims 3, 6-11 and 15-18 to bring them into conformity with the requirements of 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Therefore, Applicants submit that this objection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Specifically, amendments were made throughout claims 3, 6-11 and 15-18 to overcome the objections noted by the Examiner in paragraph 4 of the Office Action. The Examiner's cooperation is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' Attorney by telephone should any further indefinite matter be discovered so that appropriate amendments may be made.

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Lei (U.S. Patent No. 6,487,552). As indicated above, claim 14 was canceled. Therefore, this rejection is rendered moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

It should be noted that the cancellation of claim 14 was not intended nor should it be considered as an agreement on Applicants part that the features recited in claim 14 are taught or suggested by Lei whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record. The cancellation of claim 14 was simply intended to expedite prosecution of the present application.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication in paragraph 6 of the Office Action that claims 1-11, 15-18 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the objections and/or the rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. As indicated above, amendments were made to claims 1-11, 15-18 and 20 to overcome the objections noted by the Examiner and to overcome the 35 USC §112, second paragraph rejection. Therefore, claims 1-11, 15-18 and 20 are allowable as indicated by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1-11, 15-18 and 20 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 1-11, 15-18 and 20 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (501.38590X00).

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP



Carl I. Brundidge
Registration No. 29,621

CIB/jdc
(703) 312-6600